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| <b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/GB99/02935<br><b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 3 September 1999 (03.09.99)<br><br><b>(30) Priority Data:</b><br>9822569.1 16 October 1998 (16.10.98) GB<br><br><b>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):</b> JOHNSON MATTHEY PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY [GB/GB]; 2-4 Cockspur Street, Trafalgar Square, London SW1Y 5BQ (GB).<br><br><b>(72) Inventors; and</b><br><b>(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only):</b> FONGALLAND, Dharshini, Chryshantha [LK/GB]; 174 Windsor Road, Slough SL1 2JD (GB). GASCOYNE, John, Malcolm [GB/GB]; Lyduska, Routs Green, Bledlow Ridge, High Wycombe, Bucks HP14 4BB (GB). RALPH, Thomas, Robertson [GB/GB]; 94 Shaftesbury Road, Reading, Berkshire RG30 2QJ (GB).<br><br><b>(74) Agent:</b> WISHART, Ian, Carmichael; Johnson Matthey Technology Centre, Blounts Court, Sonning Common, Reading RG4 9NH (GB). |           | <b>(81) Designated States:</b> CA, JP, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).<br><br><b>Published</b><br><i>With international search report.</i> |
| <b>(54) Title:</b> SUBSTRATE<br><br><b>(57) Abstract</b><br><br>A substrate, suitable for the preparation of a composite membrane, which substrate comprises a porous matrix of fibres, characterised in that the fibres comprise mixed amorphous silica fibres that are bound with a binder; a composite membrane comprising the substrate and a process for the preparation of the substrate and composite membrane is disclosed.  |           |  |